

BOROUGH OF DUMONT MAYOR AND COUNCIL

June 11, 2013 MINUTES

Meeting was called to order at 6:41 p.m. by Mayor Kelly. This is a regularly scheduled work session of the Borough of Dumont Mayor and Council.

The Open Public Meeting Law notice was read by Mayor Kelly.

Roll call was read-Councilmembers Brophy, Carrick, Riquelme and Stylianou and Mayor Kelly were present. Therefore, a quorum was present.

Councilmembers Hayes and Zamechansky were absent.

Mayor Kelly requested a motion to accept the agenda as presented, which was made by Councilman Brophy, seconded by Councilman Riquelme, and passed by acclamation with no dissent.

A motion to open the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Stylianou, which was seconded by Councilman Carrick and affirmed by acclamation, whereupon the meeting was opened to the public for general comments and questions.

Mary Anne Russini addressed the Governing Body regarding flooding on Roosevelt Street following the recent heavy rains. The Borough Administrator said that inquiries have been made regarding purported letters allowing the buildup of the grade in the rear yard of neighboring property. None have been discovered to date. Ms. Russini requested that the Mayor and Council consider allowing her to build up her rear yard, elevating the grade to improve water flow out of the yard. The Administrator requested that she present a plan to the building department per usual for review and possible waiver or variance consideration. A discussion took place on the history of properties in the local neighborhood. It was suggested that the dirt on the neighboring property came from the basement of the home after flooding to allow the installation of a French drain in the basement. The subject property, thought to be located at 137 Roosevelt, raised some questions, namely, when was it acquired by the current owner?; when was the pool approved and built?; where is the permission supposedly granted to change the grade of the yard? A partial solution that would include planting of shade trees with a borough grant from NJEIT Phase II drainage project funding was discussed and it was agreed that this solution would be further explored. Upon conclusion of the discussion, there being no other members of the public wishing to be heard, a motion to close the meeting to the public was made by Councilman Carrick, seconded by Councilman Brophy, and passed by unanimous consent.

The Borough Administrator reported that the contractor on the West Shore Drive walking path and gazebo project, M.J. D'Arminio recently had a death in the family that was delaying construction temporarily. He also reported that lighting costs along West Shore have not been paid since 1996, and while the power provider was not seeking to back charge the Borough for

that oversight, the Borough will obviously have to pay those costs going forward and that new lights are being installed in the corridor for more energy efficiency. A report was made regarding the proposed 2014 Capital Budget. Paydown of debt in recent years totaled \$800,000 in 2011 and \$750,000 in 2012, with no major projects performed under the 2012 capital budget. The budget committee has attempted to maintain a debt neutral or better position relative to debt reduction and expenditure. The committee is recommending a \$544,627 capital budget for 2014. Several items were enumerated that the committee is recommending expenditure for, including fire department, DPW, ambulance corps and police department equipment upgrades. After some additional discussion, it was agreed to place a resolution on the agenda adopting the committee's recommendations on the capital budget.

. Councilman Brophy reported that the Shade Tree Commission has been active, but deferred to Councilman Stylianou on the proposed tree removal permit ordinance that the Commission has been lobbying for.

Councilman Carrick reported that in April, 2013, the police department received 1,828 calls for service; 106 of those were for medical assistance; 12 were fire emergencies; 34 were motor vehicle crashes and 2 calls for civil commitments. Reports on patrol division and detective bureau were received, as well. The department received CPR/First Aid and blood borne pathogen training. Active School Shooter training was also administered. Councilman Carrick also recommended adding \$19,129 to the capital budget in the event the Governing Body was inclined to honor a police department request for license plate reading system which allows on the fly investigation of every license plate that the equipped car travels by. Many neighboring departments are making use of this system with prolific results on unlicensed, unregistered vehicles, warrants on drivers, etc. Chief Faulborn will arrange a demonstration. The Council reached consensus to increase the capital budget resolution for next week by the recommended amount to budget for this system, if desired.

Councilman Riquelme had no report.

Councilman Stylianou reported that the ordinance committee had been working on the tree removal permit ordinance requested by the Shade Tree Commission. Several versions of the ordinance had been considered and a final version was circulated. The committee will have a recommendation to the Council in the near term.

The Mayor had no report.

The Borough Attorney reported that he was assisting the ordinance committee with the Shade Tree ordinance. He also reported that he had reviewed the recently received Depew Street improvement bids and concurred with the Borough Engineer that the low bidder, Sinisi, should receive the contract. A resolution awarding the contract will be submitted for consideration at the June 18 meeting.

A resolution was read by Mayor Kelly to go to closed session for a discussion of police personnel issues. That resolution was offered by Councilman Brophy, and seconded by Councilman Riquelme. A roll call vote was taken and the resolution passed 4-0. At that point, the meeting was closed to the public.

When the meeting was reopened to the public, a motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Stylianou, seconded by Councilman Brophy, and passed by acclamation at 8:38 p.m., whereupon the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
S/ Gregg F. Paster
GREGG F. PASTER-Borough Attorney